

## ACADEMY

Newsletter

DEDICATED  
TO SCIENTIFIC  
RESEARCH AND  
EDUCATION,  
INSPIRING  
RESPECT FOR  
THE NATURAL  
WORLD

## MEMBERS MEETING

## Splendors of the Seas

With Photographer/Author Norbert Wu, Wed. Dec. 13, 2 p.m. &amp; 7:30 p.m.



©1995 Norbert Wu / Mo-Yung Productions

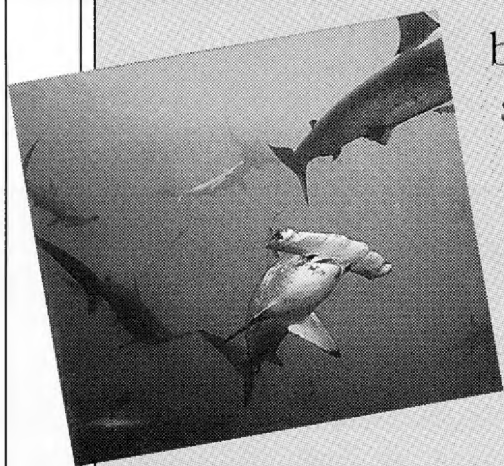
Imagine swimming with a school of hammerhead sharks, riding the waves on the fin of a manta ray or frolicking with sea lions in the cold waters off Monterey. For most of us, the vast array of life and landscapes found under the sea is a world seldom, if ever, seen.

In this presentation, Norbert Wu, one of the most widely published underwater photographers in the world, will bring you up close to the wonders of the underwater realm. You'll see Wu's finest images from some of the greatest diving spots in the world, along with recollections of his experiences and adventures as an underwater photographer for PBS nature films, Jacques Cousteau's *Calypso* and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Throughout his career, Wu has been bitten by sharks, run over by an iceberg, stung nearly to death by sea wasps, paralyzed for weeks by seasickness and trapped in an underwater cave. His photography and cinematography have appeared in numerous books, magazines and films, including *Audubon*, *International Wildlife*, *Omni* and

*Natural History*. Wu is the author and photographer of six books. A book-signing, highlighting his acclaimed book *Splendors of the Seas*, will follow the lecture and slide presentation.

Please present your membership card at the Academy's entrance and again at the auditorium. This members meeting is provided as a benefit of membership and thus is only open to members of the Academy of Sciences.

Volunteer at the Academy  
and Reap the Rewards

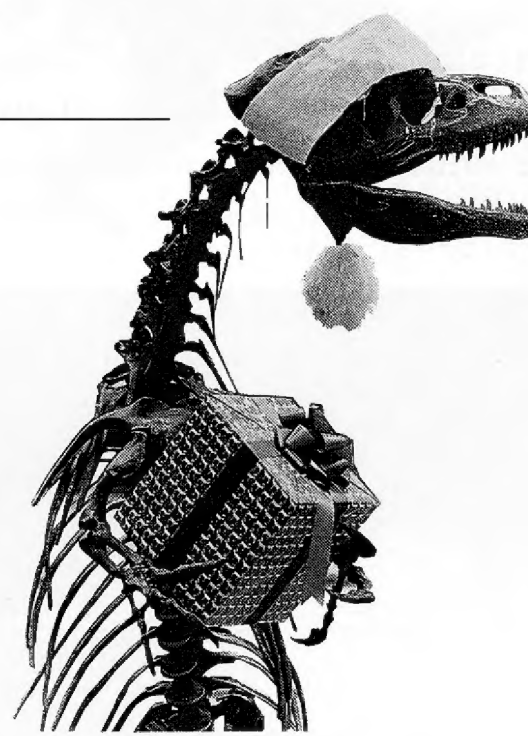
Give the gift only you can give — yourself! Many volunteer opportunities are waiting for someone with your unique combination of time, talent and commitment.

This year's Docent Class begins **Jan. 9** from 9 a.m. to noon, and will continue for the next 16 Tuesdays at the same time. Classes will emphasize the plants, animals and habitats found in the "Wild California" exhibit. Graduates will lead interpretive tours for students on weekday mornings and also may participate in the Supervan school visit program. Assistance also is needed weekdays or weekends for the Touch Tidepool, the Discovery Room and other hands-on exhibit areas.

Volunteers are important behind the scenes in the research departments and administrative offices as well, such as in the anthropology and development departments where new projects are underway. For more information on these and other volunteer opportunities, please call the volunteer services department at 750-7154.



Dong Lin

The Perfect Gift  
from Santasaurus

Cheer everyone on your holiday list with a gift membership from the Academy of Sciences. As a special thank you, you also will receive a free copy of the colorful 1996 Sea Life Calendar.

Not only is it convenient and modest in cost, but an Academy membership also is a gift you know will please your friends, relatives, business associates and the young people in your life.

Use the order form on the back of the newsletter, or call the membership office, 750-7111, and we'll be happy to take your holiday membership order over the phone.

Members  
Shopping Evening

Enjoy Special 15% Discount

Get your holiday shopping done and enjoy the December members lecture all in one evening. On Wed. Dec. 13, the Academy Store will be open to members from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. for an evening of shopping, light refreshments and music. You'll have the opportunity to shop without the crowds and purchase ethnic art, exquisite jewelry, books, audio tapes, videos, T-shirts and toys. You also will enjoy a special discount of 15 percent (normally 10 percent).

This holiday season we celebrate the Earth by personally wrapping all your gifts with recycled materials. Take home an extra gift, a full-color 1996 Sea Life Calendar, after making \$25 in purchases from the store.

We thank all our members for their support, and wish you the happiest of holidays and all the best in 1996.

Wed., Dec. 13, 6-9 p.m.



# 1996 Almanac

**Feature Sky Show:** Will 1996 be a good year, astronomically speaking? What celestial events can we look forward to, in terms of meteor showers, eclipses and other naked-eye sights? An annual favorite, this show is all about sky watching during the coming year. Take a peek ahead! This show opens Jan. 12 and continues through March 10. Show times are at 2 p.m. weekdays and 2 p.m. and 4 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

## Heavens to Betsy!

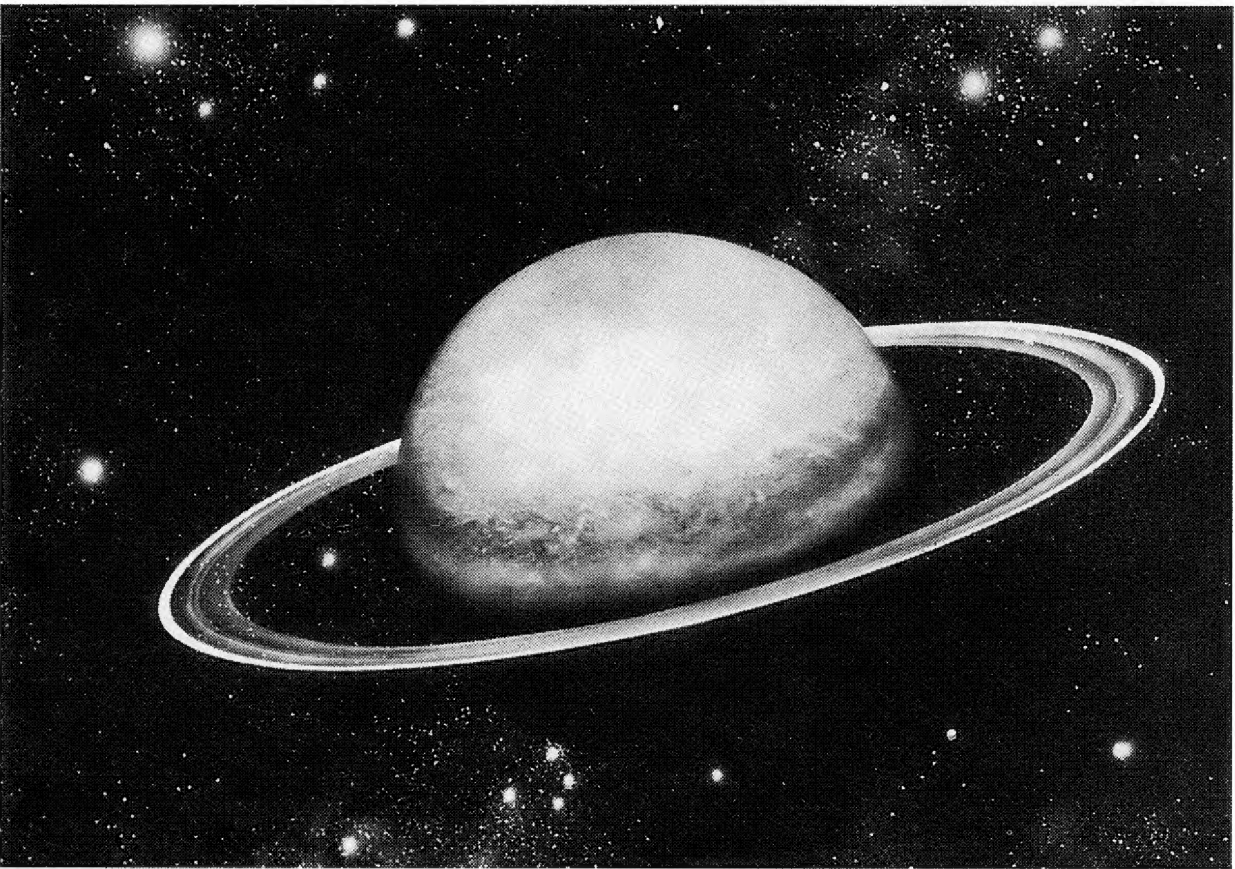
**Current Sky Shows:** Additional sky shows will be featured on weekdays for the holidays. From Dec. 25–29 the weekday schedule is 11 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 2 p.m., and 3:30 p.m. (the weekend schedule will remain the same). The planetarium will be open on Christmas Day and New Year's Day with a modified show schedule. The planetarium will be CLOSED for sky show changes Jan. 8–11. The new show "1996 Almanac" opens Jan. 12.

December Schedule		
Sky Show / Description	Weekday	Weekend
<b>The Christmas Star</b> <i>the mystery of legendary stars</i> (closes Jan. 7)	2 p.m.	2 & 4 p.m.
<b>Knock, Knock...</b> <i>search for extraterrestrial life</i>	—	1 & 3 p.m.
<b>StarTalk</b> <i>tour of the night sky</i>	—	noon
<b>Where in Space is Carmen Sandiego?</b> <i>a family show</i>	—	11 a.m.

For more information, please call 750-7141.

## Solar System Rarities

**B. Dean Astronomy Lecture:** What do the Uranian rings, Pluto's atmosphere, the bright polar cap on Pluto and the very recently discovered inner moon of Saturn all have in common? They were all found by astronomers taking advantage of special alignments of these bodies. When there are unusual positioning of the planets, new information can be extracted from observing them.



For instance, the Uranian rings and Pluto's atmosphere were detected as these planets passed in front of stars distant from Earth. These phenomena, known as stellar occultations, can reveal features that are not directly observable.

Dr. Leslie Young of NASA-Ames Research Center has been taking advantage of stellar occultations and other rare circumstances of the planets during her research. She'll talk about the fascinating discoveries of this special mutual-event season.

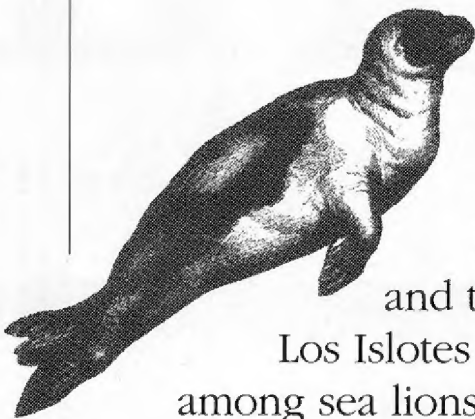
Tue., Dec. 12 — 7:30 p.m.; Tickets, \$3 each

The Spring '96 series begins with Dr. Virginia Trimble on cosmology, 1/30; Dr. Kent Cullers on detecting weak signals from space, 2/20; Dr. Alan Seiff on the Galileo atmospheric probe, 3/26; Dr. Roger Romani on gamma ray astronomy, 4/16; and Dr. Tim Hunter on the problems of light pollution, 5/21.

For advance tickets, use order form on back cover. Tickets may be available at the door on a standby basis the day of the lecture. Call 750-7141 for more information.

## Baja Islands Sea Kayaking

This unique camping trip with guide Bob Van Syoc will give you the opportunity to visit four of the islands in the Sea of



Cortez. You'll receive your orientation and kayak instruction on Isla Espiritu Santo and then paddle to Los Islotes to snorkel among sea lions. You'll see giant barrel cactus and hike an arroyo (wash) on Isla Santa Catalina. Isla San Jose offers bird-watching and kayaking in the mangrove estuaries and on Isla Santa Cruz you'll snorkel along the shoreline. Food with a Mexican flare is plentiful and water comes from deep mountain wells and is filtered. You'll have a larger support boat to transport you quickly to each island.

Apr. 22–May 1; Minimum age: 12 years; Cost: \$1,325 per person (double occupancy), plus airfare

## British Columbia: Exploring an Ecosystem

Coastal British Columbia is a complex ecosystem featuring old growth temperate rain forests, killer whales and a large Native American Indian population. With Steinhart director Bob Jenkins, you'll study the anthropology and natural history of the region with museum and aquarium briefings followed by on-site explorations from your home base of floating lodges.

June 22–29; Cost: \$1,995 per person (double occupancy), plus airfare

For more information on these itineraries, please call the travel office at 750-7348.

## Thai Miniature Boats

Tiwawan Prasartthongosot demonstrates the art of *loy kratong* — small floating boats made as votive offerings for the 12th lunar month celebration honoring the Chao Praya River in Thailand. Made from banana leaves, the boats are filled with flowers, candles and incense for the voyage downstream.

Sat., Dec. 2 — 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. (Auditorium)

## Klezmer Music in Honor of Hanukkah

The Ellis Island Old World Folk Band, formed in 1980 in Berkeley, is proud to be part of the klezmer music tradition. This jazz-like Jewish dance music originated in



## New Directors of Public Program

This fall the Academy of Sciences welcomed two new division directors to the team. Loren Behr is the director for public programs and Paul Nolfo is the director for finance.

Nolfo began as director of finance in October. He was most recently controller at the Asian Art Museum and has held positions in accounting at the American Diabetes Association and the American Heart Association. His commitment to nonprofits and experience in museums will be an asset in long-range financial planning. Nolfo succeeds Frank Tsai, who will fill the new position of director of



## ACADEMY

Planning exciting, interactive, ac-  
day workshops and field trips  
ars. Programs run **Dec. 18–29**.  
worlds of birds, mammals, di-  
your hand at dissecting squid,  
l seasonal art activities. Safely  
chemicals as you learn the ba-  
e. Call now for a class schedule  
00.



## ADULT EDUCATION

Astronomy for Travelers:  
Southern Skies

Is Orion upside down when seen from Hobart, Tasmania? How does the first quarter moon look from Auckland, New Zealand? Prepare for your next trip to the southern hemisphere or complete your celestial trivia collection with this course taught by Darryl Stanford in the Academy of Sciences' Morrison Planetarium. We will investigate the mythology of the southern skies and show you various constellations, such as the Southern Cross and Pavo the Peacock.

Jan. 22–Feb. 12 (4 Mon.) —  
7 p.m. to 9 p.m.  
Cost: \$60 members/\$70 nonmembers

## Sea &amp; Sky on Silk

The creatures and colors of the natural world will provide us with inspiration for our work with traditional and experimental fabric painting techniques, using glowing permanent dyes. Instructor Susan Tibbon's supportive

guidance for the beginning and experienced artist will result in a beautiful and usable hanging, sash or scarf of Chinese silk with hand-finished edges.

Jan. 9 & 16 — 7 p.m. to 10 p.m.  
Cost: \$55 members/\$65 nonmembers  
(Includes all materials)

For more information on these and other courses,  
contact adult and family education at 750-7100.

## NAL ARTS

Eastern European ghettos and was Americanized as people passed through the gates of Ellis Island.

Sat., Dec. 9 — 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.  
(Auditorium)

## Special Holiday Concert

Members of the Deutscher Musik Verein brass band return to the Academy of Sciences for their annual concert of Christmas music from around the world. Get in the holiday spirit and join us in a multicultural program that celebrates the joyous sounds of the season.

Sat., Dec. 16 — 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.  
(African Hall)

Explore cultural traditions from around the world.  
Free after general admission. The Traditional Arts program is  
funded by the Paul L. and Phyllis Wattis Foundation.  
Call 750-7165 for more information.

## ns and Finance Divisions

business development.

Behr took on the position of director of public programs in November. Most recently, he was site expansion exhibit director at the Chicago Children's Museum, overseeing the exhibit development of their new facility. His prior experience as acting and deputy director of the Children's Museum of Denver, as well as his experience in advertising, will make Behr a valuable asset in developing Academy public programs. He succeeds acting director Dr. Bill Eschmeyer, who will continue his role as senior curator of ichthyology.

## SPECIAL LECTURES

## Savages

Hear a firsthand account of a small band of nomadic Amazonian warriors struggling to preserve their way of life from the scourge of civilization. Oakland author Joe Kane visited the Ecuadorian Amazon to search for the Huaorani (wow-RAH-nee), a nation of 1,300 nomadic warriors so remote that their language is unrelated to any other on Earth. This group is so fierce that for years all newcomers have been turned away from their land, a territory the size of Massachusetts.

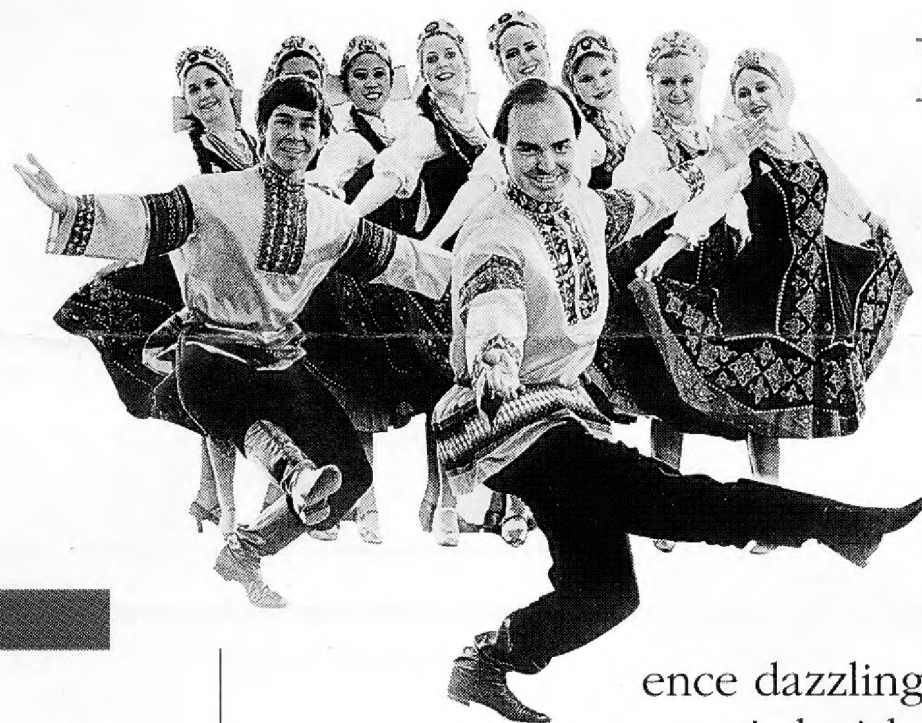
But now the Huaorani are being threatened by outside oil interests, eager missionaries, native bureaucrats and well-wishing environmentalists intent on helping the Huaorani. Kane's account of the efforts of the Huaorani to vault from the Stone Age to Petroleum Age is humorous as well as heartbreaking, and brings us face to face with the chaotic process we call development.

Kane's writing about the Amazon for *The New Yorker* earned him the Overseas Press Club Award for best environmental reporting. His book *Running the Amazon* was a New York Times best seller. A book-signing, highlighting his new book *Savages*, will follow the lecture.

Tues., Dec. 5 — 7:30 p.m.  
Cost: \$6 members/\$10 nonmembers

Special lectures are presented in the auditorium.  
Use order form for tickets. For more information, please call 750-7128.

## YOUNG AUDIENCES

Russian  
Christmas  
Celebrations

Ballet Russe, one of America's premiere Russian dance ensembles, presents its Russian Christmas Celebrations. Experience dazzling Russian artistry through the group's lavish costumes and dynamic movements.

Sun., Dec. 17 — 1 p.m.

This one-hour family series is presented in the auditorium and is free after general admission. The series is funded by San Francisco Grants for the Arts. Call 863-1719 for more information.

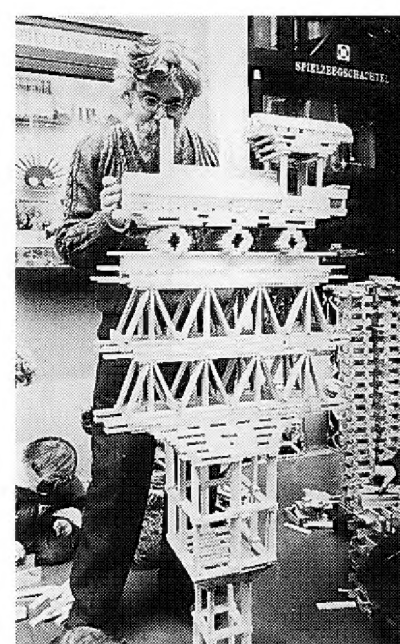
Reach for the Stars  
and Discover a World of New Children's Products

Give the gift of imagination and creativity this holiday and watch your family reach for the stars! The Academy Store presents hands-on activities for children to demonstrate the newest in children's learning toys. Come join us the weekend of Dec. 9 and 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for an adventure of the imagination.

Wouldn't you and your kids love to ... build a skyscraper, make a piece of pottery, create fantastic shapes and creatures, fly an "aerobie," or explore the fascinating world of CD-ROMs?

Come play and enjoy the demonstrations, activities, prizes, games and discover those special holiday gifts that will excite and stimulate your child's imagination. Experienced representatives will be on hand to assist you with your gift selections.

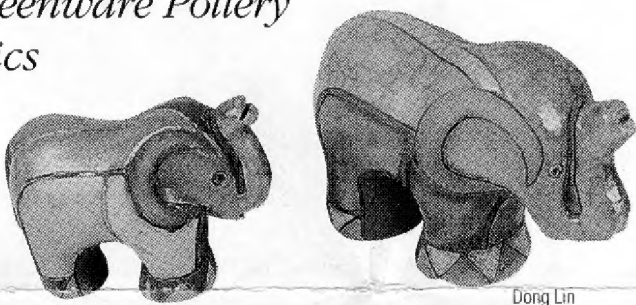
Dec. 9–10, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.





THE  
ACADEMY  
STORE

Raku Animals from Africa \* Greenware Pottery  
from Bali \* Petroglyph Ceramics  
from Mexico \* Woven Baskets  
from Panama \* Birch Bark  
Boxes from Siberia



Explore a world of gift  
possibilities at  
the Academy  
Store

Make a lasting impression with these  
unique international gifts. Take  
advantage of your 10 percent member's  
discount and complimentary gift wrap to  
make your shopping experience complete!

DECEMBER

SUNDAY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

PERMANENT EXHIBITS

Farallons Tank: This 10,000 gallon tank  
showcases the local fish of California's Farallon  
Islands, including perch, several species of rockfish  
and a wolf eel. Located in "Wild California" hall.

3 PENGUIN  
FEEDINGS  
are at 11:30 a.m.  
and 4 p.m.  
every day

10 Reach for the Stars,  
children's product  
demo., 10 a.m.-3  
p.m. (Academy  
Store)

17 Ballet Russe, 1 p.m.  
(Young Audiences)

24/31

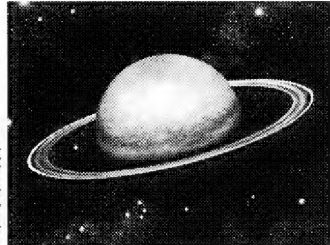
4 PLANETARIUM  
SKY SHOWS  
weekdays  
at 2 p.m.;  
weekends each  
hour from 11 a.m.  
to 4 p.m.

18 Junior Academy  
winter workshops  
begin, through  
the 29th  
(Education)

25

5 Savages, 7:30 p.m.  
(Special Lectures)

12 Solar System  
Rarities, 7:30 p.m.  
(B. Dean As-  
tronomy Lecture)



26

6 Free Day  
First Wednesday  
of each month

13 Splendors of the  
Seas, 2 & 7:30 p.m.  
(Members Meeting)

Members Shopping  
Evening, 6-9 p.m.  
(Academy Store)

20

HIGHLIGHT  
TOURS  
Free one-hour  
highlight tours  
are offered  
daily.

27

7 SPECIAL  
EXHIBITS  
"Dancing to the  
Fossil Record,"  
through Jan. 8

"Lu Huan: Stone  
Carvings by a  
Chinese Master,"  
through May 26

14

21

28

HOURS  
We're open every  
day of the year  
from 10 a.m. to 5  
p.m. (Summer  
hours: Memorial  
Day through Labor  
Day we're open 9  
a.m. to 6 p.m.)



15

22

29

SCIENCE IN  
ACTION  
General programs  
Mon.-Fri. at  
11:30 a.m.  
Children's  
programs Sat. at  
12:30 & 3 p.m.;  
this month's  
topic is a  
celebration of  
Coniferous  
Forests.

9 Klezmer Music in  
Honor of Hanukkah, 1  
p.m. (Traditional Arts)

Reach for the Stars,  
children's product  
demo., 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
(Academy Store)

16 Special Holiday  
Concert, 1 p.m.  
(Traditional Arts)

23 LASERIUM  
SHOWS  
Thursday-Sunday,  
evenings,  
call 750-7138

30

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

7 - "The Christmas Star" sky show closes  
9 - Docent Class begins  
8 - "Dancing to the Fossil Record" exhibit closes  
8-11 - Planetarium closed for sky show changes

UPCOMING MEMBERS MEETINGS

Jan. 11 - Hummingbirds, with Dr. Luis Baptista  
Feb. 14 - African Birds, with Douglas Cheeseman Jr.  
Mar. 13 - The Wolf, with Pat Tucker and Bruce Weide

California Academy of Sciences  
Golden Gate Park  
San Francisco, CA 94118

Address Correction Requested

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 3565  
San Francisco

ORDER FORM

SPECIAL LECTURES

Savages, with Joe Kane / Dec. 5  
Qty/Mem. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$6 \_\_\_\_\_ Qty/Nonmem. \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

B. DEAN ASTRONOMY LECTURE SERIES

Solar System Oddities / Dec. 12  
Cosmology / Jan. 30  
Weak Signals from Space / Feb. 20  
Galileo Atmospheric Probe / March 26  
Gamma Ray Astronomy / April 6  
Problems of Light Pollution / May 16  
Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ x \$3 \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ x \$3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ x \$3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ x \$3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ x \$3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ x \$3 \_\_\_\_\_  
TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CONVERSATIONS & READINGS AT THE HERBST THEATRE

Stephen Jay Gould, 1/1; Edward Hoagland, 3/4; David Brower, 4/2; Ivan Doig, 4/25; E.O. Wilson, 5/13; and Mary Catherine Bateson, 5/28. For tickets, please call City Box Office, 392-4400.

GIFT MEMBERSHIP

I wish to give a gift membership to: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_  
State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
O \$50 Family/Grandparent O \$40 Individual O \$35 Dual Senior O \$30 Senior/Student

DONATIONS

O I would like to support the California Academy of Sciences with a donation.

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT METHOD

(Check one) O Check O VISA O MasterCard O American Express

Credit card charges gladly accepted over \$10.

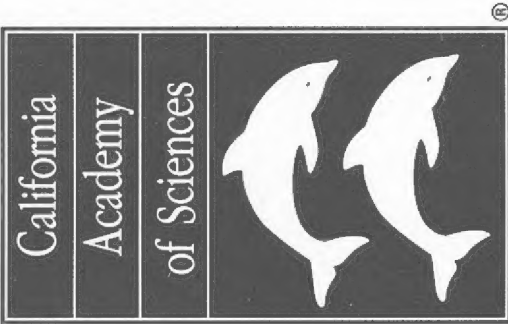
Card# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: C.A.S. and mail with this coupon form to:

Membership Office, Ticket Services  
California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, CA 94118  
Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for each series to which you subscribe.  
No refunds/exchanges.



The Academy includes the  
Natural History Museum,  
Steinhart Aquarium and Morrison  
Planetarium. Open every day  
from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 4-  
Labor Day we're open 9 a.m to 6 p.m.

VISITOR SERVICES

Academy Information: 415-750-7145

Academy Store: 750-7410

Admissions: 750-7159

Aquarium: 750-7247

Biodiversity Center: 750-7361

Development Office: 750-7216

Docent Tours: 750-7155

Education Office: 750-7100

Group Information: 750-7159

Job Hotline: 750-7333

Laserium: 750-7138

Lectures: 750-7128

Library: 750-7102

Membership Office: 750-7111

Planetarium: 750-7141

Planned Giving: 750-7216

Security: 750-7000

Switchboard: 221-5100

Travel: 750-7348

Volunteer Services: 750-7154

Weekend Information: 750-7375

The Academy Newsletter is published  
monthly for Academy members.

© 1995 California Academy of Sciences

Editor / Sheri Ketchum

Design / Nancy Campana Design

Printing / Fruitridge Printing & Lithograph Inc.

Printed on Recycled Paper  
with Soy-based Ink